

Remarks

Claims 23-27 and 31-36 are pending. Claims 1-22 and 28-30 are canceled and new Claims 33-36 are added in this Response.

Election

The election of Claims 23-32 is affirmed. Claims 1-22 have been canceled as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to delete the references to Fig. 5A and 5B.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26-27 and 31-32 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of base Claim 23 and intervening Claims 24 and 25. Claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of base Claim 28 and intervening Claims 29 and 30. Accordingly, Claims 28-30 have been canceled.

Claim 27 has been amended to depend from Claim 26. Claim 32 has been amended to depend from Claim 31.

Claims 26-27 and 31-32, therefore, are now in condition for allowance.

Amended Claim 23

Claim 23 has been amended to recite an adjustment mechanism configured to determine a voice coil gain for substantially all locations on a media based on a sum signal at each location and an input voice coil slew rate. Support for the amendment to Claim 23 may be found in a Specification at paragraph 0020.

Claim 23 was rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Hayashi EP138514 in view of Ando 2004/0013056. Without conceding that the combination of Hayashi and Ando teaches determining a voice coil gain for substantially all locations on a disk or other media, neither Hayashi nor Ando teach or even suggest that any such voice coil gain determination is made based on a sum signal and an input voice coil slew rate. On the contrary, Hayashi does not say how the focus signal F_c is determined (or even that the focus signal is related to a voice coil gain). See Hayashi, column 15 lines 11-47. Similarly, so far as Applicants can tell, Ando does not teach that the entries

in the gain table for the focus gain circuit are determined based on a sum signal or an input voice coil slew rate. See Ando paragraphs 0069-0072. Indeed, it does not appear that Ando even mentions a sum signal or an input voice coil slew rate.¹

Amended Claim 23, therefore, is felt to distinguish patentably over the combination of Hayashi and Ando.

New Claims 33-36

New Claims 33 and 34 are directed to an optical drive that includes the focus distance limitations of allowable Claim 26 (about 80 μ m toward the media and about 20 μ m away from the media). New Claims 33 and 34 reflect the iterative nature of one embodiment of the adjustment process described, for example, in paragraph 0018 of the Specification. New Claim 33 recites an adjustment mechanism configured to determine a voice coil gain for a location on a media and new Claim 34, depending from Claim 33, recites that the adjustment mechanism is configured to determine a voice coil gain iteratively for each of substantially all locations on the media.

New Claims 35 and 36 are directed to an optical drive that includes the sum signal and slew rate limitations of Claim 23, as amended. New Claims 35 and 36 reflect the iterative nature of one embodiment of the adjustment process described, for example, in paragraph 0018 of the Specification. New Claim 35 recites an adjustment mechanism configured to determine a voice coil gain for a location on a media and new Claim 36, depending from Claim 35, recites that the adjustment mechanism is configured to determine a voice coil gain iteratively for each of substantially all locations on the media.

¹ As is well known to those skilled in the pertinent art, slew rate is the rate at which a signal changes over time and a sum signal is a signal from the sum sensor, an element for determining focus commonly used in an optical drive.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the pending office action.

Respectfully Submitted,

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